

SENATOR LAMB: But the only part of this amendment that I claim some interest in has to do with the county attorneys having some help from probation officers in these sparsely settled counties. Senator Hoagland has been very helpful in developing a version of the amendment which doesn't have a fiscal impact. According to the letter which you have on your desk, from Mr. Robert Keller, the probation administrator, he agrees that there is no fiscal impact. But what it does is it allows those county attorneys out there to cooperate with the probation people in those sparsely settled counties where there is sometimes not a heavy caseload. They can get some help, mostly for these young people that, before they come to be charged, before they are charged, that these young people need that help at an early time, and this allows the probation officers to help the county attorneys in that effort. So this has to do with probation officers in counties with fewer than 25,000 people to work with pretrial diversion programs. It is not mandatory. It is a voluntary sort of thing so that it does not have a fiscal impact. But it is very important that we do what we can to steer those young people in the right direction when they first get into a bit of trouble. I would ask that the amendment be adopted.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Senator Nichol is the next speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. President, I think what we are doing, and I haven't even seen it because they are not around, and you're not going to get to see it because nobody has them. Here, again, we have a situation where we are putting something in a bill that I think is not germane. I throw that to you, Mr. Chairman, for a decision. I object to it as not being germane. But here we are putting another bill into another bill at this late date, which I don't like for starters. I don't know whether this amendment is any good or not. I don't see it.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Senator Nichol has just made an objection, Senator Hoagland, to your motion, and, Senator Lamb, to your motion claiming that this item is not germane to LB 529. It will take me a little while to make some decision on that. In the meantime could you at least present me some argument as to why you believe this amendment is germane, Senator Hoagland.